

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1005

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006

REDUCTION IN PRICES OF DRUGS

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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to reduce the prices of life saving drugs including Cancer, Anti Retro Viral (ARV) and AIDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to come in force;
- (c) whether the Government is considering for duty cut on AIDS and Cancer drugs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (d): For making available anti-cancer and anti-HIV/AIDS drugs at reasonable prices to a much larger section of the population the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy has proposed that the Government would evolve a public - private partnership programme with the concerned manufacturers and cancer hospitals in the country. Further some of the suggested measures for reducing the prices of these drugs are:

1. Exemption of anti-cancer and anti-AIDS drugs (bulk and formulations) from all types of Central taxes - excise duty, import duty etc and the benefit to be passed on to the consumers.
2. States would also be asked to exempt these medicines from all types of state and local levies.
3. Industry and trade would also be asked to reduce their margins both profit and trade margins to the barest minimum level and pass on the benefit to the consumers. So far no final decision has been taken on the above issue.